

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 17, 2019

Mr. Mark Zuckerberg  
CEO  
Facebook  
1 Hacker Way  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Mr. Jack Dorsey  
CEO  
Twitter  
1355 Market Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Ms. Susan Wojcicki  
CEO  
YouTube  
901 Cherry Avenue  
San Bruno, VA 94066

Dear Mr. Zuckerberg, Mr. Dorsey, and Ms. Wojcicki:

We write regarding our concern about the presence of foreign terrorist organizations (FTOs) on your social media platforms and their ability to spew extremism and hate online through your platforms.

According to the State Department, there are currently 68 designated FTOs. The National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) assesses that nearly every FTO on this list has a social media presence of some kind.

On March 15, 2019, a terrorist was able to live-stream their mass murder of 51 people in the terrorist attack in Christchurch, New Zealand. It has been reported that, in the first 24 hours after the Christchurch attack, Facebook had to remove the terrorist content more than 1.5 million times as it went viral on the platform. In May, Facebook announced that it would be taking steps to mitigate against those videos being streamed on Facebook Live and working to find ways to take them down once they are posted.

While this is an important step, it does not address the inclusion of FTOs on social media platforms, including those with official accounts. In particular, Hamas and Hezbollah both have large presences on social media platforms. Recent reporting by the *New York Times* illustrated the far reach of these groups on social media.

Hezbollah shares the bulk of their postings through Al Manar, a pro-Hezbollah broadcaster. Al Manar has an active Twitter feed with 481,000 followers. A *New York Times* search on YouTube for Al Manar yielded more than 37,000 results, much of them propaganda speeches by Hezbollah's leader, Hassan Nasrallah.

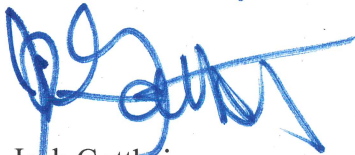
Hamas has an active English language Twitter account, with more than 72,000 followers. Al Aqsa, Hamas' television station also has a Twitter account and a Facebook page. Instagram, which is owned by Facebook, also features thousands of propaganda images and videos promoting Hamas.

Given the wide reach that FTOs have been allowed to have on your platforms, we kindly request the following information:

1. The number of State Department-identified FTOs that have active accounts on your platforms;
2. The number of affiliate groups for each FTO that post propaganda content on behalf of the FTO;
3. A detailed plan and timeline for how to remove FTO content and accounts as well as propaganda accounts that further spread terrorist content;
4. Any policies or procedures in consideration to permanently ban FTO content and accounts from each of your platforms;
5. In November 2018, Facebook announced that it removed a total of 12.4 million pieces of terrorist content from their platform, including from ISIS and al-Qaeda. How do your platforms determine which FTO content to remove in comparison to content from groups like Hamas and Hezbollah which remains active?

We appreciate your prompt attention to these items and look forward to receiving your responses.

Sincerely,



Josh Gottheimer  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Tom Reed  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Brian Fitzpatrick  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS